



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Glasgow
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1, 2018
Otago degree(s)	LLB (Hons)/BSc
Major(s)	Genetics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Psychology 101	English	Psych101	18
Business Studies (Law)	English	General laws paper	15
Environmental law	English	General laws paper	15
Human disease genetics	English	GENE313	18

Any comments about these papers?

All of these papers were great. When we were in Scotland there were large university strikes so there were many interruptions and we did not have the classic experience, however they were really interesting. I think that the psych paper is a really interesting and easy paper to fill up a science degree and if you are doing genetics it is really hard to get papers that cross credit, however this was a great one.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

It was very much the same in Scotland as to in Otago. The only real difference that I noticed was that the science paper was run like a seminar, with only one lecture a week and then a day where we had to prepare a speech every week and present back to the class, although this was not assessed. This was not something that I have ever experienced in NZ, however it was interesting and made it easy to keep up to date even with the business of travelling and being on exchange. I think a lot of the papers are like this when they are the 4th year level. The main difference in Scotland is that everyone does 4 years and does honours, therefore there at 400-level papers that you can do.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I lived in Murano St Village. It was such a good place to live and it was so easy to meet people. I lived in a large flat with 11 others and the entire building I was in was either exchange or international people. It wasn't catered, but everything else was included, which I think is a really good way of doing it as you're away so much so it would be difficult if you were always paying for food that you wouldn't get. My other flatmates were interesting at times, but again it is such a fun place to live that at the end of the day it did not really matter who they were, especially as there were so many of them. I had some other friends who lived in smaller university flats, but these could be very dependent on what flatmates people got and therefore quite it and miss.

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

I paid for my rent in one big lump sum at the beginning so that it was out of the way and then I mostly lived off study link from week to week. I spent around \$700 on insurance and I think it was really worth it as at one point I got quite sick in Morocco. I did not have to pay for visas the entire time I was away (and I don't think you have to anywhere in Europe). I would say the costs of living are generally the same as they are in Otago in terms of food, transport etc.

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I used just my home bank account and then used a Cash passport which I filled up. I would highly recommend this as it worked no matter where I travelled.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

I did not have to apply for a visa, you can get a short-term study visa upon arrival. I brought with me proof that I was studying at the university of Glasgow, a copy of my bank account statement to prove I sufficient money to get out of the country and then my passport.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

There were so many organised activities available. Mostly they were sports, however like any university there were many clubs. I would recommend all of the clubs as they were really well organised and easy to get involved in. I did so much travel that while I signed up to several at the

beginning I found that I didn't have that much time. But that depends just how you plan your time and it was still a great way to meet people at the beginning and to meet locals.

What was the university/ city like?

It is the university that Otago is founded upon and even has the same clock-tower so it feels a lot like home. Scotland is very similar to New Zealand also, it looks very similar and the people are just as friendly and wonderful. Glasgow is an amazing city, it is often known as the grungy and dirty version of its fancy counterpart Edinburgh. But just like Otago is a city that really values the University and it has so much culture, it reminds me a lot of Wellington.

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

My favourite thing about Glasgow was the culture. I would highly recommend going to many gigs, shows and concerts as possible. It has so much going on and is a really interesting place so I loved it. You have to spend as much time in the park as possible and try millionaire slice. You also have to try out a place called Bread Meats Bread. Then generally Europe was a really cool place. I went all over the place other than just around Scotland, including England, Ireland, Spain, France, Portugal, Morocco, Italy, Germany, Holland, Czech Republic, Greece and Malta.

Any tips for future students?

I would say my number one tip is to download skyscanner, google maps and Dice. Skyscanner is so great for finding cheap flights and I would say the best thing is to be flexible on the days that you are happy to go and where you want to go. You can search there the cheapest place to go is in individual countries and even all of Europe. You can also set alerts for certain places so that when cheap flights come up you can jump on them. Google maps is really good because when you go to a new place it lets you download the map so you can access it offline. You can also save locations that you have looked up earlier in each new city so it is easy to navigate throughout your day. Dice is then a really good app that can get you tickets to gigs and let you know what is on in your area.

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

My exchange experience has been one of the best experiences of my life. Not only did it contribute to the greatest year of my life so far, but I met some of the most inspiring, kind and interesting people. It is more than just an opportunity to travel. It has given me skills in confidence, viewing things from different perspectives and remaining excited about life. I have come back with a new found appreciation for what I want to do with my life and motivated to complete my degree so I can get back out there and do even more with my life. It is an experience I would never want to have given up and would never change for the world. I would recommend it to anyone and everyone, no matter what your degree, stage of life or personality is.







